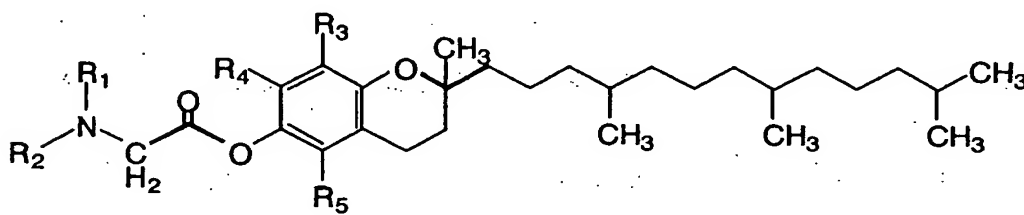


CLAIMS

1. A whitening cosmetic composition characterized by
 comprising a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt
 thereof.

2. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
 wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a compound
 represented by a formula (1) described below:



(1)

wherein R_1 and R_2 represent the same or different lower
 alkyl group or a hydrogen atom; and R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 represent a
 hydrogen atom or a methyl group; with the proviso that R_1 and
 R_2 do not represent a hydrogen atom at the same time.

3. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
 wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is at least one
 compound selected from an α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester, a
 γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester, and a δ -tocopherol
 alkylglycine ester.

4. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,

wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is an α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

5. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 4,
5 characterized in that the α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a
dl- α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

6. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 4,
characterized in that the α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a
10 d- α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

7. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a
 γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

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8. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 7,
characterized in that the γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a
d- γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

20 9. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a
 δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

10. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 9,
25 characterized in that the δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a

d- δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

11. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is
5 tocopherol dimethylglycine ester.

12. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine
ester is a salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

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13. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 12,
wherein the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is
hydrochloride.

15 14. The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1,
wherein an added amount of the tocopherol alkylglycine ester
and/or the salt thereof ranges from 0.1 to 10% by mass.

15. A method for preventing or eliminating pigmentation of
20 the skin, wherein a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a
salt thereof is employed.

16. Use of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt
thereof for preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the
25 skin.

17. Use of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for preparation of a pharmaceutical agent for use in preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.